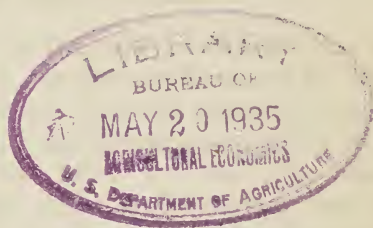


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United States
Department of the Interior
Soil Erosion Service

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SOIL EROSION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ELM CREEK WATERSHED--CENTRAL TEXAS
NEWS LETTER--NO.2
TEMPLE, T EXAS. JULY, 1934.

Soil Erosion Service

Fletcher Bldg.

Temple, Texas

NEWS LETTER

No. 2

July, 1934

Big News for Elm Creek Farmers

The allotment of funds for the Elm Creek Project has been increased to such an extent that it is now possible to offer the farmers a much greater inducement for coming into the program. It will be necessary for the Soil Erosion Service to hire a great many men to build terraces. The farmers in the watershed who are cooperating with the Government will have the first chance at this work. They will be paid at the minimum rate of \$3.20 per day for a man and team. Those who are able to build more than 800 feet of terraces a day will be paid more, in proportion to the amount of work done. This will amount to 2/5 of a cent per foot, which is double the original rate paid.

North and South Elm May Be Included in Project

Farmers living in North and South Elm watersheds are working hard to get their area included in the Soil Erosion Program. Owing to the increased allotment either North Elm or South Elm will be included in the Big Elm Creek demonstration, if 85 % of the farmers sign up. WE know that one area can be included in the Central Texas Project and it is possible that both areas can be included if at least 85 % of the farmers in both areas agree to cooperate with the Soil Erosion Service. Meetings have been held at Westphalia, Wilson School, Barclay and North Elm School in the North Elm watershed and at New Colony, and at Lee Dale in the South Elm area for the purpose of informing farmers of the plan of the Soil Erosion Service and the opportunity they have to protect their farms from erosion if the required percentage agree to cooperate. As a result of these meetings committeemen appointed in both areas by the farmers are working day and night to get the required number of farmers to sign up and to agree to protect their farms from erosion. Work will begin immediately in the area

which signs up first, and it is hoped that both areas may be finally included.

Erosion Clubs Organized

Ten erosion clubs have been organized in the Elm Creek Watershed for the purpose of studying farm problems in connection with the erosion program. Following is a list of clubs organized with their officers.

Big Elm Area

Zabcikville & Seaton	(H.M. Jakubik, President (Leo Hoelscher, Secretary
Moody	(O.A. Gerloff, President (Bly Teague, Secretary
Oenaville	(H.P. Linn, Director (W.A. Gwin, Director (W.B. McDonald, Director

The Zabcikville & Seaton club which meets at Flag Hall will hold its regular meeting the last Friday in this month, July 27th, for discussion of trench silos as well as erosion problems. Everyone interested is invited to attend.

North Elm Area

Westphalia	(H.A. Hoelscher, President (Martin Roessler, Secretary
Wilson School	(A. Vickers, President (A.A. Winkleman, Secretary
Barclay	(Charlie Ocker, President (Edward Hoelscher, Secretary
North Elm	(B. Crenan, President (M.C. Russell, Secretary

South Elm Area

New Colony	(I.J. Baca, President (Adolph Schiller, Secretary
Lee Dale	(W.E. Marchak, President (J.C. Ketchum, Secretary
Rogers	(H.L. Word, President (H.L. Spencer, Secretary

These clubs were organized for the specific purpose of getting farmers interested in the erosion program and to get the respective communities to sign up 85 % so that this area could be included in the Big Elm Creek Project. If these areas come in these clubs will be permanent and will meet regularly to discuss various farm problems.

Erosion Survey

The Soil Erosion Service is now making an erosion survey which will cover the entire watershed but will show soil type, slope of ground, degree of erosion, and present land use. To date about 15,000 acres in the upper end of the watershed have been mapped. The purpose of this survey is to show the exact extent to which erosion has progressed and to determine which lands would best be taken out of cultivation because of excessive slope or erosion. In the area between Troy and Moody about 60 %, or 6 to 8 inches, of the fertile topsoil has been removed and completely lost by erosion. On the steeper slopes all the topsoil has been washed away. And this, we must remember, has happened in less than 60 years. At this rate of erosion, in another 60 years only chalky limestone or yellow, poor sub-soil will remain.

Progress News

1. 2,614,164 feet of terrace lines have been run on farms in the Big Elm watershed.
2. 764,209 feet of terraces have been constructed.

3. 484 permanent and temporary dams have been constructed for gully control and to protect terrace outlets.
4. 340 acres strip-cropped.
5. 298 acres of pasture contour furrowed.
6. 226 acres retired from cultivation and put into permanent pastures.
7. 6,000 sets Donax (Georgia Cane) set out for gully control as well as several thousand sets of dewberries and honeysuckle.
8. Over 1,000 truck loads Bermuda sod set out in permanent pastures and for gully control.
9. Owing to the demand by farmers for graders and Fresnoes the Soil Erosion Service is purchasing 25 more Fresnoes and 20 or more graders to supplement the 50 graders and 25 Fresnoes already in the field.
10. 400 E.C.W. men are building an average of over 50 dams or spillways in the watershed each week.

Erosion Facts of National Interest

1. Rainwater, running wild has destroyed the equivalent of 140,000 farms of 250 acres each.
2. 125,000,000 acres of land now in cultivation has lost all or the greater part of its topsoil.
3. Every year 3 billion tons of soil material are washed out of the fields and pastures of the nation.
4. Enough soil washes out of the mouth of the Mississippi River every year to build 1,250 farms of 160 acres each, all having a depth twice that of the average upland soil of America.

What the Farmers Say

S. V. Akin told a group of men in Moody the other day that he would not take \$1,500.00 for the terraces on his 53 acre farm.

Jerry Hojl, a farmer near Seaton, who has part of his farm terraced and part not terraced, told a group of men at a meeting in Oenaville that in cultivating his land he stirred up moisture on the terraced field, and could hardly get his plows in the ground on the unter-

raced land because it was so dry.

E.C.W. Camp News

Well sodded grassland is the most effective means of erosion control. Well sodded ditched will not wash under favorable conditions. Terraces emptying into well sodded ditches on ordinary slopes and into sodded pastures, require no other protection at the outlets and the increased water on the pasture makes better grazing.

The Temple E.C.W. Camp is building about 25 erosion control structures each week, and are now working in the Qenaville community. 200 men in this camp are doing good work under the direction of the following staff of trained men:

W. J. Doane, Superintendent

Lewis K. Black, Engineer

Foremen

A. O. Harvey
L. C. Pennington
S. L. Anders

Cody McCracken
Albert Nutt, Jr.
E. A. Mittanck

The Troy E.C.W. Camp is building about 25 erosion control structures each week and are now working in the Troy community. The 200 men in this camp are doing good work under the competent direction of the following staff:

W. H. Chandler, Superintendent

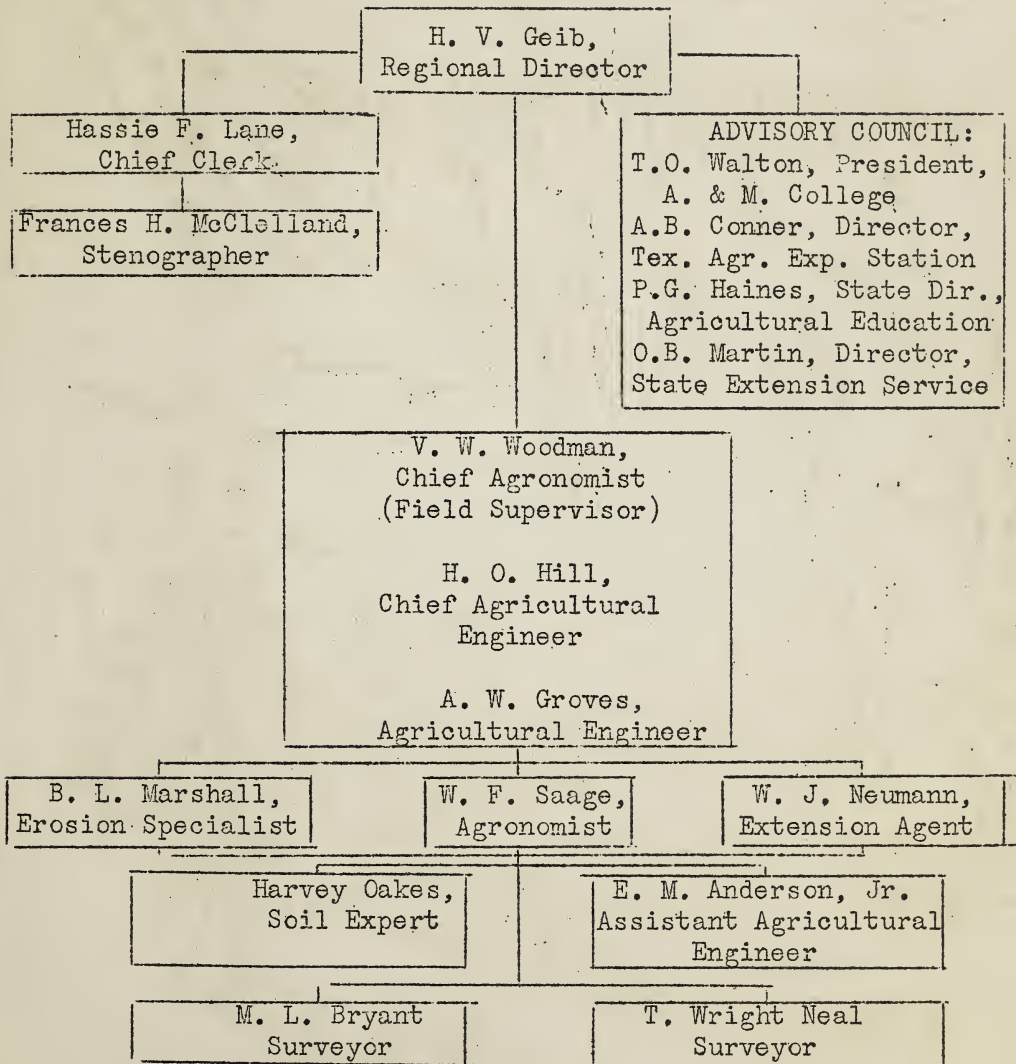
S. A. Nixon, Engineer

Foremen

William Timmons
E. A. Harris
C. W. Duncan

C. H. Crain
J. P. Howard
C. B. Tooley

Below is a set-up of the supervisory staff of the Soil Erosion Service for the Central Texas, Project No. 4.



We shoot crows

But ignore erosion.
Thousands of times
more destructive

